

Below is a brief summary of the meeting with the Mayor of Spokane yesterday, per Cindy/Arnita end of day conversation, I am transmitting in Cindy's absence. thanks

On Thursday March 2, Acting OW AA Mike Shapiro and Acting R10 DRA Dan Opalski led a call with Spokane Mayor David Condon's office on EPA's water quality standards for Washington. Betsy Southerland, Director, OST, also spoke for EPA. Joining Mayor Condon were: Scott Simmons, Director of Public Works; Marlene Feist, Public Works Director of Strategic Development; Elizabeth Shadle, City Attorney.

Comments by Mayor Condon and Spokane Public Works Director Scott Simmons:

- Big concern that there is no affordable, measurable way to meet the new WQS for PCBs, so they would like for us to roll back our rule and support Ecology's standards.
- Brought up petition from the Association of Washington Businesses and others, which asks EPA to reconsider its position.
- Brought up Idaho's water quality standards submission to EPA.
- Concerned about costs to cities and citizens.
- Previous federal rules came with substantial federal funding.
- Spokane invested in Integrated Planning but that is not going to help them with this challenge. Would advise others not to do Integrated Planning.
- Concerned that variances do not preclude lawsuits against city.
- Concerned about future contaminants, lack of certainty, and effect on credit rating.
- U.S. Conference of Mayors sent a letter on this subject.
- Look forward to follow-up meeting.

EPA Responses:

- Commend city's investments and the work of the Task Force.
- The steps to update WA water quality standards took about a decade, and during that time, there were scientific updates that affected the final standards.
- EPA acknowledges that practical difficulties exist in implementing the science/health based PCB water quality standard.
- EPA's regulations offer a range of flexibilities to help manage these circumstances (such as variances, compliance schedules, and implementation of pollutant minimization plans to help identify PCB sources).
- Under a water quality standard variance, Permittees are given less stringent water quality based permit limits while they explore ways to further reduce their pollutant discharges.
- There are more details to discuss regarding implementation flexibilities and EPA would like to talk more with the City and other key stakeholders in another meeting.

Follow-up:

- EPA R10 Washington Operations Office Director Lucy Edmondson will send Scott Simmons information on Great Lakes variance and will set follow-up meeting.